

## Message Text

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12

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 EA-09 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01

ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00

EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15 SAM-01 OES-05 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04

TRSE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 ( ISO ) W  
----- 017456

R 151958Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1572

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS CARACAS 0526

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, VE

SUBJ: MEXICAN MINISTER CLAIMS HIS COUNTRY WOULD JOIN OPEC

IF ASKED

1. FRANCISCO XAVIER ALEJO, MEXICAN MINISTER OF NATIONAL PAT-  
RIMONY, IN CARACAS TO ATTEND THE SELA MEETING, APPEARED ON  
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A TELEVISION INTERVIEW PROGRAM. THE CARACAS ENGLISH LANGUAGE

DAILY JOURNAL ON JANUARY 15 CARRIED A STORY BASED ON THE INTERVIEW. IT APPEARS TO BE THE ONLY LOCAL NEWSPAPER SO FAR TO HAVE REPORTED THE MINISTERS REMARKS.

2. ACCORDING TO THE DAILY JOURNAL, ALEJO SAID THAT MEXICO HAS NOT JOINED OPEC BECAUSE IT HAS NOT BE INVITED TO DO SO, AND NOT BECAUSE OF THE FEAR OF LOSING THE BENEFITS OF THE NEW U.S. FOREIGN TRADE ACT. ALEJO ELABORATED THAT OPEC FOLLOWED A RULE OF ONLY OFFERING MEMBERSHIP TO THOSE STATES WHOSE PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IS PETROLEUM. OTHERWISE, A COUNTRY SUCH AS THE UNITED STATES WHICH STILL EXPORTS SOME PETROLEUM, BUT WHOSE INTERESTS PLAINLY CONFLICT WITH THOSE OF OPEC, MIGHT HAVE TO BE OFFERED MEMBERSHIP.

3. ALEJO WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT "WE WOULD JOIN TODAY IF WE WERE INVITED TODAY", BUT INSISTED THAT MEXICO HAD NEVER BEEN INVITED TO DO SO. HE NOTED THAT HIS COUNTRY HAD TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF OPEC PRICING MEASURES AND HAS RAISED THE EXPORT PRICE OF ITS OIL TO A POINT WHERE IT AVERAGED ONE DOLLAR PER BARREL MORE THAN THE OPEC PRICE.

4. AMONG OTHER POINTS MADE BY ALEJO WAS HIS CLARIFICATION OF CERTAIN ALLEGEDLY MISLEADING VENEZUELAN PRESS ARTICLES ABOUT THE EFFICIENCY OF MEXICO'S STATE OIL INDUSTRY. HE DESCRIBED AS FALSE THE REPORT THAT MEXICO REQUIRES 100,000 EMPLOYEES TO PRODUCE 500,000 B/D. THE CORRECT FIGURES ARE 1.25 MILLION B/D OIL PRODUCTION WITH A PAYROLL OF 40,000. THIS LATTER FIGURES INCLUDES THE PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY, ALEJO ADDED.

5. ALEJO SAID THAT MEXICO IS DEVELOPING CLOSER RELATIONS WITH COUNTRIES SUCH AS VENEZUELA IN ORDER TO DIVERSIFY ITS EXPORT TRADE, WHICH AT PRESENT IS HEAVILY (60 PERCENT) WITH THE UNITED STATES. "WE HAVE BOTH THE GOOD FORTUNE AND PROBLEM OF BEING NEXT DOOR TO THE U.S.A." FORTUNATE IN THAT IT IS THE WORLD'S BEST MARKET. PROBLEM IN THAT SIZE OF THE US. BRINGS PROBLEMS. IT IS LIKE LIVING NEXT TO AN ELEPHANT-ALWAYS IN THE SHADE." THE ARTICLE CONCLUDED WITH THE FOREGOING QUOTES.  
SHLAUDEMAM

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** ENRG, VE, MX, OPEC, (XAVIER ALEJO, FRANCISCO)  
**To:** MEXICO  
**Type:** TE  
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